

~~Top Secret~~**YUGOSLAVIA: Army Ponders Its Role**

*There are indications that the Yugoslav Army is increasingly indifferent to civilian authority; some hardliners probably are considering military intervention to preserve the federation.* [REDACTED]

Army commanders appear to be moving to isolate themselves from civilian oversight and increasingly are ignoring Prime Minister Markovic's authority. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Chief of Staff Adzic recently proposed to his Bulgarian counterpart, [REDACTED] that they cooperate to preserve Communist control, a position at odds with Markovic's support for democratization. [REDACTED]

The Army in late summer lied to the government that it was not still servicing Iraqi military aircraft, according to Foreign Minister Loncar. [REDACTED]

Communist hardliners continue to hint at military intervention. A former Army Chief of Staff recently said publicly that senior generals had met behind closed doors and had decided to prevent Yugoslavia's disintegration. President Jovic last week made a well-publicized visit to an Army exercise. Croatian President Tudiman, a likely target of any crackdown, [REDACTED] believes the Army is considering a coup late this month to prevent multiparty elections in the ethnically mixed republic of Bosnia. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Sentiment within the Army that the politicians are incapable of handling the crisis appears to be growing. The Army is prepared to attempt to crush outright secession by a republic if the Presidency orders such a move. If the federal government disintegrates or the Presidency deadlocks, as almost occurred two weeks ago, the Army might consider unilateral intervention to preserve unity. The Army probably would not move to block elections. [REDACTED]

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